LOCAL NEWS

Readers debate LaRouche followers' likening of Obama, Hitler

A sign put up by Lyndon LaRouche supporters criticizes President Obama as narcissistic and fascist outside Bristol Farms in Corona del Mar.

By **JEFF OVERLEY** | Orange County Register
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Orange County Register readers in recent days reacted with praise, scorn and laughter to an article profiling followers of political personality Lyndon LaRouche who have grabbed the spotlight by likening President Barack Obama's health-care plans to genocide by Adolf Hitler.

A common criticism of the story involved a perceived double-standard. A reader at ocregister.com, using the screen name cromwell, said this: "Gee … I still recall the libs and dems call George Bush everything from the Anti-Christ to Hitler. Funny thing. I don't recall that being a problem with the left wing fishwrap media."

The article noted that Hitler references are common in politics as "shorthand for anyone acting imperiously." What makes the LaRouche activists' message unique, however, is that they mean the insult literally, insisting that Obama wants to kill the sick and elderly.

LaRouche's followers also defy the traditional left-vs.-right political paradigm, as they consider themselves Democrats, and while they oppose Obama's health-care ideas, they want a single-payer system.

"I really appreciate your article 'Loyal to LaRouche' showing that most of the Hitler comparisons to Obama at the town hall meetings which many consider offensive are coming from Lyndon LaRouche Democrats," one reader said in an e-mail. "(Nancy) Pelosi, Obama, Barney Frank, and other Democrats have either stated or implied that this has come from right wing conservatives. Obviously, that is not true."

An online, unscientific poll asked for reaction, and as of Monday morning, about 1,400 votes had been cast. Forty-nine percent of votes called the Hitler comparisons "ridiculous," 41 percent called them "spot-on" and 10 percent said they were untrue but not bothersome.

A commenter named harvester found humor in the poll results: "Oh OC…you never fail to amuse 41% to 49%… HA! Man we got some stupid people here that 41% think this is ok."

On the other side was a reader named scubadude, who said in part: "Down with Obamacare! Down with Facism! (sic)"

One person using the name derrickd suggested the LaRouche camp's tactics would backfire, writing: "People like this only make other people more sympathetic to the president."

CLICK HERE TO SEE A SLIDESHOW OF OBAMA-IS-HITLER IMAGES.

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